

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 309022
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INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, ITU, CITEL, CO

SUBJECT: GEOSYNCHRONOUS ORBIT AND TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY.

REF: RIO DE JANEIRO 5011

1. AT RECENT MEETING IN RIO OF INTER-AMERICAN TELE-
COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE (CITEL), U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
DISCUSSED WITH COLOMBIAN REPRESENTATIVES THE ITU-
SPONSORED BROADCASTING SATELLITE WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE
RADIO CONFERENCE (WARC) SCHEDULED FOR GENEVA IN
JANUARY 1977, AND THE REPORTED COLOMBIAN INTENTION TO
RAISE THE ISSUE OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY OVER GEO-
SYNCHRONOUS ORBIT. COLOMBIAN REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT
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PAGE 02 STATE 309022

WERE: DR. ALFREDO REY CORDOVA, ASESOR, ASUNTOS
INTERNACIONALES AND DR. HUMBERTO CHAVEZ NAVIA, JEFE,
DIVISION TELEFONICA, FROM COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY. U.S.
REP. ASKED WHETHER IT WAS TRUE THAT GOC, IN CONJUNCTION
WITH SOME OTHER EQUATORIAL COUNTRIES, INTENDED TO RAISE
TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE AT THE 77 WARC.

COLOMBIAN REPS. REPLIED THAT SUCH AN INITIATIVE WAS LIKELY BUT THAT DECISION ON WHETHER TO RAISE ISSUE AT WARC AND STRATEGY ON HOW IT WOULD BE HANDLED WERE RESPONSIBILITIES OF FOREIGN MINISTRY. AT PRESENT MINISTRY IS IN PROCESS OF MAKING FINAL DETERMINATION.

2. U.S. REP. STATED THAT THERE WAS A CLEAR AND WELL-KNOWN DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN GOC AND U.S. REGARDING QUESTION OF TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY AND GEOSYNCHRONOUS ORBIT. HE WAS NOT RAISING THE ISSUE IN ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE COLOMBIANS THAT U.S. LEGAL INTERPRETATION WAS RIGHT AND COLOMBIAN WRONG. RATHER, HE WISHED TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS LEGAL AND POLITICAL QUESTION WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO THE ORDERLY CONDUCT OF BUSINESS OF THE WARC, AND THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF ITS IMPORTANT TECHNICAL OBJECTIVES. THE WARC HAD CLEARLY DEFINED TERMS OF REFERENCE WHICH DEAL WITH TECHNICAL MATTERS AND THE ORDERLY MANAGEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RADIOCOMMUNICATION. TO ASK THE CONFERENCE TO TAKE A POSITION ON THE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE WAS REQUESTING AN ACTION NOT WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE CONFERENCE. IF THE GOC, AND OTHERS ASSOCIATED WITH IT, SHOULD ATTEMPT TO FORCE A DECISION, THEN IT WOULD RISK SERIOUSLY DISRUPTING THE WORK OF A CONFERENCE IN WHICH ALL NATIONS HAVE A DEEP INTEREST BECAUSE OF ITS IMPORTANCE TO INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION. THERE ARE OTHER FORUMS IN WHICH THE SOVEREIGNTY QUESTION IS PRESENTLY BEING DISCUSSED, AND WHICH ARE MORE SUITED TO ITS EXAMINATION. THEREFORE, THE U.S. HOPED THAT COLOMBIA WOULD NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 309022

INTRODUCE THE QUESTION TO THE 77 WARC. HOWEVER, IF THE GOC DECIDED THAT THE SUBJECT BE RAISED, IT WOULD BE LESS HARMFUL WERE IT TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE WARC SOLELY FOR THE INFORMATION OF ITS PARTICIPANTS, AND NOT REPEAT NOT WITH THE REQUEST THAT THE WARC TAKE A POSITION.

3. REY AND CHAVEZ LISTENED CAREFULLY. AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOC TELECOMMUNICATION ADMINISTRATION, THEY NATURALLY CAN BE EXPECTED TO UNDERSTAND THE TELECOMMUNICATION ISSUES. IT WAS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THEY FELT THEY HAD NO AUTHORITY TO COMMENT ON THE ARGUMENTS RAISED BY THE U.S. REP. THEY REPEATED THAT THE DECISION ON THIS ISSUE WOULD BE MADE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO RAISE WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY SUBJECT OF 77 WARC AND TERRITORIAL

SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE ALONG LINES TAKEN BY U.S. REP. AS DESCRIBED IN PARA 2 ABOVE, AND REPORT RESULTS. FOR EMBASSY'S INFORMATION, FOLLOWING ARE 77 WARC'S TERMS OF REFERENCE:

A. TO ESTABLISH THE SHARING CRITERIA FOR THE BANDS 11.7 - 12.2 GHZ (IN REGIONS 2 AND 3) AND 11.7 - 12.5 GHZ (IN REGION 1) BETWEEN THE BROADCASTING-SATELLITE SERVICE AND THE OTHER SERVICES TO WHICH THESE BANDS ARE ALLOCATED, NAMELY: THE FIXED SERVICE; THE MOBILE SERVICE (EXCEPT THE AERONAUTICAL MOBILE); THE BROADCASTING SERVICE; THE FIXED-SATELLITE SERVICE (SPACE-TO-EARTH) IN REGION 2;

B. TO PLAN FOR THE BROADCASTING-SATELLITE SERVICE IN THE ABOVE-MENTIONED BANDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION NO. 27 OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE (MALAGA-

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TORREMOLINOS, 1973) AND RESOLUTION NO. SPA2-2 OF THE WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE FOR SPACE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, GENEVA, 1971;

C. TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES TO GOVERN THE USE OF THESE BANDS BY THE BROADCASTING-SATELLITE SERVICE AND BY THE OTHER SERVICES TO THE EXTENT CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY THE CONFERENCE.
ROBINSON

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